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Agenda item 20 (b)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Oman, Senegal, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam and Yemen: draft resolution

Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/169 K of 16 December 1997 and its previous resolutions on economic assistance to Djibouti,

Recalling also the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,[1] adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on 14 September 1990, as well as the mutual commitments undertaken on that occasion and the importance attached to the follow-up to that Conference,

Conscious that Djibouti is included in the list of least developed countries and that it is ranked 162nd out of the 174 countries studied in the *Human Development Report 1998*,[2]

Noting that the economic and social development efforts of Djibouti are constrained by the extremes of the local climate, in particular cyclical droughts and torrential rains and floods such as those that occurred in 1989, 1994 and, more recently, in October and November 1997, and that the implementation of reconstruction and development programmes requires the deployment of substantial resources which exceed the real capacity of the country,

[1] A/CONF.147/18, part one.

[2] Published for the United Nations Development Programme by Oxford University Press, New York.

98-35114 (E) 121198 121198

Emphasizing that there is an urgent need to provide financial support in the areas of demobilization, reconstruction and rehabilitation of the regions affected by civil strife, with a view to strengthening peace and stability in the country,

Noting that the situation in Djibouti has been made worse by the deteriorating situation in the Horn of Africa and in particular in Somalia, and noting also the presence of tens of thousands of refugees and persons displaced from their countries, which has placed serious strains on the fragile economic, social and administrative infrastructure of Djibouti and caused security problems in the country, in particular in the city of Djibouti,

Noting with satisfaction that the Government of Djibouti is continuing to implement a structural adjustment programme, and convinced of the necessity to support that financial recovery programme and to take effective measures to alleviate the consequences, in particular the social consequences, of that adjustment policy, so that the country may achieve lasting economic results,

Noting with gratitude the support provided to relief and rehabilitation operations by various countries and by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti;[3]

2. *Declares* its solidarity with the Government and people of Djibouti, who continue to face critical challenges owing, in particular, to the scarcity of natural resources and the continuing critical situation in the Horn of Africa;

3. *Welcomes* the implementation by the Government of Djibouti of the structural adjustment programme and, in that context, appeals to all Governments, international financial institutions, the specialized agencies of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations to respond in an appropriate manner, as a matter of urgency, to the financial and material needs of the country;

4. *Considers* that the process of demobilization and the reintegration and employment of demobilized soldiers is essential not only for the process of national rehabilitation, but also for the success of the agreements with the international financial institutions and for the consolidation of peace, and that it requires substantial resources which exceed the real capacity of the country;

5. *Expresses* its gratitude to the countries and intergovernmental organizations which have already contributed the sums pledged at the round table on Djibouti which was held at Geneva on 29 and 30 May 1997, and invites others to follow their example;

6. *Also expresses* its gratitude to the intergovernmental organizations and especially to the United Nations Development Programme, as well as the other funds and programmes of the United Nations system for their contributions to the national rehabilitation of Djibouti and invites them to continue their efforts;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his continued efforts to make the international community aware of the difficulties faced by Djibouti;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, in close cooperation with the Government of Djibouti, his efforts to mobilize the resources necessary for an effective programme of financial, technical and material assistance to Djibouti;

[3] A/53/361.

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a study of the progress made with regard to economic assistance to Djibouti, in time for the question to be considered by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.